

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BISCHOFF BILL ON GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYING PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS -- Senate Bill 442, legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Bob Bischoff (D-Greendale) that addresses geophysical surveying for potential oil and natural gas drilling spots, passed out of the House today by a vote of 91 - 3.

Geophysical surveying will no longer be regulated by the Natural Resources Commission or the Department of Natural Resources. Companies carrying out geophysical surveying will not be required to purchase a permit.

Geophysical surveying can be carried out in two ways. Small amounts of dynamite can be buried 5 to 10 feet in the ground. The energy released by the detonation bounces off rock layers and is then read by sensors, like the seismographs that measure the strength of earthquakes. From this information, places conducive for oil or natural gas drilling can be identified.

A second method to determine where to drill is to use a meter that measures the pressure of gravity on the earth, which could identify faults underground. Oil and natural gas deposits are more likely to be found along fault lines.

Furthermore, the bill states that the law defining the crime of recklessly using regulated explosives will not be applicable to near surface or subsurface use of regulated explosives for the exploration and production of oil or natural gas.

"We should encourage the expansion of the oil and natural gas in Indiana," said Bischoff. "This is potentially very lucrative for Indiana's economy and it makes sense to do what we can to make regulations regarding this industry more palatable for companies."

Senate Bill 442 now goes to the governor for approval.